

Remarks

Further and favorable reconsideration is respectfully requested in view of the foregoing amendments and following remarks.

Initially, in the Preliminary Amendment filed August 15, 2007, certain amendments were made on pages 25, 26 and 28. It has been determined that these amendments should not have been made, i.e. the original disclosures on these pages were correct. Accordingly, pages 25, 26 and 28 have now been amended to put them back into their original disclosures.

Claims 7 and 8 have been amended, in response to the rejection of claims 1-8 under the second paragraph of 35 U.S.C. §112, to depend from claim 6, rendering the rejection moot.

Referring to the last two paragraphs on page 2 of the Office Action, concerning an interference and a certified English translation of the foreign application, the Examiner informed Applicant's attorney, during a telephone discussion on September 13, 2007, that there is no interference, and that the last two paragraphs on page 2 of the Office Action should not have been included in the Office Action.

The rejection of claims 1-12 under 35 U.S.C. §102(b) as being anticipated by Matsubara et al. is respectfully traversed.

The Matsubara et al. reference was published (online) May 17, 2004, as apparent from the attached copy of InterScience. This publication date is between the filing dates of Applicant's two Japanese priority applications. A verified English translation of the first priority application (JP 2004-016408) is submitted herewith. It is expected that the PTO has received copies of both priority applications from WIPO, and in this regard, attention is directed to the Request for Acknowledgment of Receipt of Priority Documents submitted concurrently herewith.

The first Japanese priority application does not fully support the subject matter of the present claims. For example, this priority document discloses that the reaction is performed in the presence of a chiral copper catalyst, whereas the present claims use a chiral catalyst comprising copper or nickel. But as apparent from the rejection set forth by the Examiner, the Matsubara et al. reference discloses a copper catalyst. It is

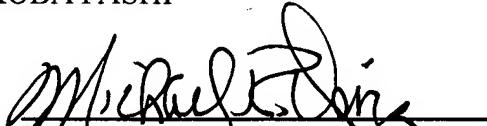
Applicant's position that the first Japanese priority application discloses as much of the presently claimed invention as disclosed in the reference.

In addition, one of the coauthors named in the reference is Shu Kobayashi, who is also named as the inventor in the present application. Applicant's attorney is attempting to confirm whether or not the two other coauthors named in the reference actually contributed to the invention described in the reference. If the other coauthors did not contribute to such invention, it is expected that a Declaration to this effect will be submitted for the Examiner's consideration, thus removing the reference as prior art against the present invention.

Respectfully submitted,

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TABLE OF CONTENTS

[< Previous Issue](#) | [Next Issue >](#)

[View Graphical Table of Contents](#)

Volume 43 Issue 25 , Pages 3205 - 3345 (June 21, 2004)

Cover Picture: Expanding and Shrinking Porous Modulation Based on Pillared-Layer Coordination Polymers Showing Selective Guest Adsorption (Angew. Chem. Int. Ed. 25/2004) (p 3205)

Tapas Kumar Maji, Kazuhiro Uemura, Ho-Chol Chang, Ryotaro Matsuda, Susumu Kitagawa

Published Online: Jun 16 2004 4:31AM

DOI: 10.1002/anie.200490079

[Abstract](#) | [Full Text: PDF \(Size: 19K\)](#)

[Save Article](#)

Graphical Abstract

Graphical Abstract: Angew. Chem. Int. Ed. 25/2004 (p 3208-3215)

Published Online: Jun 16 2004 4:31AM

DOI: 10.1002/anie.200490080

[Abstract](#) | [Full Text: PDF \(Size: 450K\)](#)

[Save Article](#)

Corrigendum

Block-Selected Molecular Recognition and Formation of Polypseudorotaxanes between Poly(propylene oxide)-Poly(ethylene oxide)-Poly(propylene oxide) Triblock Copolymers and α -Cyclodextrin (p 3215)

Jun Li, Xiping Ni, Kam Leong

Published Online: Jun 16 2004 4:31AM

DOI: 10.1002/anie.200490081

[Abstract](#) | [References](#) | [Full Text: HTML](#), [PDF \(Size: 30K\)](#)

[Save Article](#)

Meeting Review

Ordered Porous Nanoarchitectures with Specific Functions (p 3216-3217)

Nicola Hüsing

Published Online: Jun 16 2004 4:31AM

DOI: 10.1002/anie.200460497

[Abstract](#) | [References](#) | [Full Text: HTML](#), [PDF \(Size: 111K\)](#)

[Save Article](#)

Book Review

Bioactive Natural Products. (Series: Studies in Natural Products Chemistry, Vol. 28, Part 1). Edited by Atta-ur-Rahman. (p 3218-3219)

Published Online: Jun 16 2004 4:31AM
 DOI: 10.1002/anie.200385130

[Abstract](#) | [Full Text](#): [HTML](#), [PDF \(Size: 74K\)](#)
[Save Article](#)

Fundamental World of Quantum Chemistry. A Tribute to the Memory of Per-Olov Löwdin. Vols. I and II. Edited by Erkki J. Brändas and Eugene S. Kryachko. (p 3219-3220)
 Markus Reiher
 Published Online: Jun 16 2004 4:31AM
 DOI: 10.1002/anie.200385109

[Abstract](#) | [Full Text](#): [HTML](#), [PDF \(Size: 53K\)](#)
[Save Article](#)

Highlight

A Brighter Future for Protein Design (p 3222-3223)
 Anna Tramontano
 Published Online: May 14 2004 6:23AM
 DOI: 10.1002/anie.200301738

[Abstract](#) | [References](#) | [Full Text](#): [HTML](#), [PDF \(Size: 77K\)](#)
[Save Article](#)

Essay

Asymmetric Catalysis in the Pharmaceutical Industry (p 3224-3228)
 Joel M. Hawkins, Timothy J. N. Watson
 Published Online: Jun 16 2004 4:31AM
 DOI: 10.1002/anie.200330072

[Abstract](#) | [References](#) | [Full Text](#): [HTML](#), [PDF \(Size: 143K\)](#)
[Save Article](#)

Review

Total Syntheses of Colchicine in Comparison: A Journey through 50 Years of Synthetic Organic Chemistry (p 3230-3256)
 Timm Graening, Hans-Günther Schmalz
 Published Online: Apr 19 2004 6:05AM
 DOI: 10.1002/anie.200300615

[Abstract](#) | [References](#) | [Full Text](#): [HTML](#), [PDF \(Size: 1030K\)](#)
[Save Article](#)

Communication

Highly Diastereo- and Enantioselective Reactions of Enecarbamates with Ethyl Glyoxylate To Give Optically Active *syn* and *anti* α -Alkyl- β -Hydroxy Imines and Ketones (p 3258-3260)
 Ryosuke Matsubara, Yoshitaka Nakamura, Shū Kobayashi
 Published Online: May 17 2004 9:28AM
 DOI: 10.1002/anie.200460165

[Abstract](#) | [References](#) | [Full Text](#): [HTML](#), [PDF \(Size: 191K\)](#)
[Save Article](#)

Controlled Submolecular Translational Motion in Synthesis: A Mechanically Interlocking Auxiliary (p 3260-3264)
 Jeffrey S. Hamm, Stephen M. Lacy, David A. Leigh, Carlos G. Saiz, Alexandra M. Z. Slawin, Sheila G. Stuchell
 Published Online: Jun 16 2004 4:31AM
 DOI: 10.1002/anie.200353606

[Abstract](#) | [References](#) | [Full Text](#): [HTML](#), [PDF \(Size: 213K\)](#)
[Save Article](#)

Aromatic Donor-Acceptor Charge-Transfer and Metal-Ion-Complexation-Assisted Folding of a Synthetic Polymer (p 3264-3268)
 Subhrit Ghosh, S. Ramakrishnan
 Published Online: Jun 16 2004 4:31AM
 DOI: 10.1002/anie.200453860

[Abstract](#) | [References](#) | [Full Text](#): [HTML](#), [PDF \(Size: 175K\)](#)
[Save Article](#)

Expanding and Shrinking Porous Modulation Based on Pillared-Layer Coordination Polymers Showing Selective Guest Adsorption (p 3269-3272)
 Tapas Kumar Maji, Kazuhiro Uemura, Ho-Chol Chang, Ryotaro Matsuda, Susumu Kitagawa
 Published Online: May 12 2004 11:11AM
 DOI: 10.1002/anie.200453923

[Abstract](#) | [References](#) | [Full Text](#): [HTML](#), [PDF \(Size: 221K\)](#)